

TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 25th July, 1922.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

The Council met in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven Thirty of the Clock. The President was in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12]

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POSTS OF THE DEVICOLAM COMMISSIONER AND HIS ASSISTANT.

8. MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: With reference to the office of Commissioner at Devicolam, will the Government be pleased to state the academical and other qualifications of the present Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner and their present pay and scale, if any?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: The present Commissioner, Devicolam, has no academical qualifications. He was an officer in the Madras Salt, Abkari and Customs Department when he was taken into the service of the State. He now draws a pay of Bh. Rs. 1,050, in a personal scale of Bh. Rs. 1,000-50-1,200. The Assistant to the Commissioner has passed a special examination in Criminal Law and Procedure. He has no academical qualifications. His pay is also personal and it is Rs. 400 in the scale of Rs. 400-50/3-500.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to say what his pay was while in the British Service and why a departure from the Public Service Notification was made in the case of this officer?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Information is not available here. It will be called for.

COST OF EMPLOYING THE PRESENT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

9. MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: What is the total cost (including pay, travelling allowance, pensionary contribution, etc.) per month in employing the present Commissioner of Police?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Mr. Pitt, the present Commissioner of Police, draws a pay of Bh. Rs. 1,497-as. 8 per mensem and a contribution of Bh. Rs. 375 is paid on account of his leave allowance and

[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

pension. He draws travelling allowance at the rates prescribed in the British Service Regulations for first class officers.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Since the policy of the Darbar is one of strictest economy or "reasonable and relentless retrenchment", will the Government be pleased to say why the Darbar indented on so costly an officer?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: This is a question of policy which cannot be discussed at question time.

WORKING PLANS IN THE FOREST DEPARTMENT.

10. MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: (a) What are the steps that are now being taken for the preparation of Working Plans?

(b) Are the Government in possession of the Draft Rules regarding "Simple or Preliminary Working Schemes or Plans"?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the Draft Rules *in re* simple schemes?

(d) Has the Conservator of Forests given or have the Government obtained from the Conservator any report stating his reasons for deviating from the Working Plans in 1095 and 1096?

(e) What is the cost incurred by Government in preparing the existing Working Plans?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (a) The preparation of detailed Working Plans is held in abeyance.

(b) & (c) The answer is in the negative.

(d) The Conservator reports that, the deviations being slight, the sanction of the Government was not applied for.

(e) The total cost is reported to be Rs. 78,612.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to say if they have any explanation to offer in this Council why they did not possess themselves of these rules for the past five years, although the reserves had been worked according to them?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: The matter is under correspondence.

IMPROVEMENT OF FOREST COMMUNICATIONS.

11. MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: (a) Will the Government be pleased to say whether the Conservator of Forests has sent up a separate report on the improvement of "communications" and particularly waterways as suggested by the Government in their review of his report in 1087?

(b) If not, will the Government be pleased to call for such a report without delay?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (a) & (b) A special report was made to the Government and it was ordered in 1915 that, as the matter would involve a heavy outlay, the existing practice of carrying out works of a minor nature at a moderate cost should continue till the State finances improved. In reviewing the Forest Administration for 1096, the Government suggested that the matter should